were anxious to know and to do the will of God, even though all their previous views might be completely overthrown. The foolish ones had been informed and believed that at the coming of Christ Jesus the Bridegroom to receive those who had been called to the kingdom they would immediately be received into heaven and exalted to positions of joint rulership with the Lord. They considered themselves very important and prided themselves on the conclusion that they were the only fit ones to rule the world. They reasoned that they had received all the light or knowledge that was due or ever would be due to be received by men on earth, and that therefore they were specifically qualified to rule the world. They were void of love and, being extremely selfish, had not the joy of the Lord, which is the honoring and vindicating of Jehovah's name. On the contrary, the wise virgins found their hearts' desire expressed in the words of Jesus: 'I delight to do thy will, O my God; thy law is written in my heart.' Being unselfishly devoted to Jehovah and Christ Jesus, the wise ones said: 'The joy of the Lord is our strength.'

13 All the virgins expected the coming of the Lord in 1914, and the foregoing describes the attitude of the two classes. In 1914 the Lord did come to begin his reign amidst the enemy, but he did not do what the virgins had expected he would do. They found themselves still on earth. What those in line for the kingdom had been told would come to pass did not come to pass, and therefore to them it seemed that the Bridegroom tarried. "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept." (Matt. 25:5) To be sure, Christ Jesus did not delay or tarry one moment. He was enthroned in 1914 and he was occupied first with the war in heaven against Satan and his wicked angels, which resulted in ousting the wicked ones from heaven. (Rev. 12:7-10) That having been accomplished, the next in order, as named by the Scriptures, was the coming of the Lord to the temple and the raising to life those faithful ones who had long slept in death. (Rev. 6:11) Because it appeared that the Lord delayed his coming at the time expected, all the virgins became drowsy, some of them slept soundly, while others nodded, finding it difficult to keep awake. None of them were fully awake and on the alert, and watching. The foolish ones lay down and slept soundly, concluding that all things had been done that could be done, and now they must simply wait until the Lord took them to heaven to rule. Such was exactly their condition, particularly from 1917 onward. They insisted that all the truth that would ever be revealed by the Lord had been previously revealed through one man, whom they recognized as "that servant". The 'wise virgin' company was doing some work, but it was done, not with certainty, boldly and with alertness, but in a dazed manner, as by one almost asleep. They had fear and had respect for what they supposed to be the "higher powers", that is, the political rulers of the world. They did not know just what to do, but were determined to continue watching and doing what appeared to be the right thing. The wise virgins loved the Lord and were anxious to do something to his glory regardless of whether they should ever go to heaven or should live on the earth. They were restrained by Satan's organization from activity, and hence were imprisoned. Then the condition of the slumbering became greater, and even the wise virgin class came near sleeping soundly.

14 Midnight is a dark hour. In 1918 the outlook for Jehovah's people was very dark. In the latter part of 1919 those in line for the kingdom began to awaken and saw it was necessary to arouse themselves and serve Jehovah. "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." (Matt. 25:6) The *Revised Version* reads: "Behold, the bridegroom! Come ye forth to meet him." It was at the Cedar Point convention in 1919 that God's people began to realize that they must do something in serving the Lord. At that convention there were present both the foolish and the wise virgins, as subsequently the facts fully disclose. When the announcement was made that an aggressive work must be started and carried on, many responded with a shout of gladness, and others seemed to be dazed, and yet apparently wanted to get their eyes opened, and get in line; and then all began to search the Scriptures to see what was the real situation. "Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps."—Matt. 25:7.

15 At that time the lamps of the foolish were burning very dimly and were about to go out because they had no unselfish, heart devotion to the Lord. The lamps of the wise needed trimming, and they needed more oil. The Scriptures were not understood, and, the wise being anxious to understand and see what is the Lord's will, they discerned that they must be wholly and unselfishly devoted to God and serve him. These began to carefully and prayerfully search the Scriptures. *The Watchtower* continued to receive and to convey through its columns the truth to others, and in 1922 the Lord through his channel graciously unfolded to his people that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, was at the temple. The trimming of lamps continued with zeal by the faithful ones, and these, being anxious to know and to do the will of God, became more active and zealous. The joy of the Lord continued to increase with them, and, learning that they must honor God and not man, all such have continued to receive the increasing light from the Lord at the temple.

16 That part of the text which says, "Go ye out to meet him," or, according to the *Revised Version*, "Behold, the bridegroom! Come ye forth," seems to mark the time of the coming out of the faithful prisoners from their condition of restraint where they were held under Satan's organization. They had not understood